

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 01807 110940Z
ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1807

FOR NEA/RA AND IO/OIC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CENTO PFOR
SUBJECT: CENTO POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER

1. AT THIS POINT IT DOES NOT RPT NOT APPEAR LIKELY THAT CENTO
POLITICAL WORKING GROUP WILL COMPLETE AN AGREED POLITICAL GUIDANCE
PAPER IN TIME FOR NEXT MONTH'S MINISTERIAL MEETING AT TEHRAN.
LIMITED PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN LAST TWO MEETINGS (FEB 15
AND MARCH 8), AND CHAIRMAN HAS SCHEDULED ANOTHER MEETING FOR
MARCH 15 IN HOPE OF ACCELERATING ACTION. HOWEVER, MOST OF
PAPER REMAINS WITHOUT AGREEMENT, AND EXPECTED DEADLOCK HAS
DEVELOPED WITH INITIAL DISCUSSION OF PARAS 15 AND 16, CONTENT OF
WHICH BRINGS TO HEAD DIFFERENCES IN INTERPRETATION OF CENTO'S ROLE.

2. PARA BY PARA RESULTS OF LAST TWO MEETINGS FOLLOW:

A. PARA 2: NO CONSENSUS. REGIONAL COUNTRIES PREFER REV 3
VERSION OF PARA WHILE UK AND US SUPPORT REV 2 PLUS LAST SIX
LINES OF REV 3. IN EFFORT TO BRIDGE GAP, UK HAS PROPOSED
ADDING A NEW THIRD SENTENCE TO REV 2: "IN PURSUING THESE AIMS,
THE SOVIET UNION MAY BE EXPECTED TO CONSIDER TAKING
ADVANTAGE OF ANY OPPORTUNITY THAT MAY PRESENT ITSELF." THE LAST
SIX LINES OF REV 3 WOULD THEN FOLLOW. REGIONAL COUNTRIES
DID NOT SHOW INTEREST.

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B. PARA 6: GROUP AGREED TO APPROVE AD REFERENDUM
FOLLOWING LANGUAGE: "THE SOVIET UNION APPEARS TO HAVE INTEN-
SIFIED ITS DESIRE TO PLAY A MORE IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE AREA.
IT SEEKS TO ACQUIRE A SAY IN THE DISPOSAL OF NATURAL AND IN
PARTICULAR ENERGY RESOURCES IN THE AREA. (IT CAN PERHAPS BE
ARGUED THAT CONTROL OF MIDDLE EAST OIL SUPPLIES MIGHT HAVE

SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WESTERN ALLIANCE.) THE SOVIET UNION DEVELOPS TRADE AND PROVIDES GENERAL ECONOMIC AS WELL AS MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES IN THE AREA IN SUPPORT OF ITS POLITICAL AIMS, PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE NEIGHBORS OF CENTO REGIONAL MEMBERS."

C. PARA 9: DISCUSSION BOGGED DOWN OVER UK INSISTENCE THAT LANGUAGE IS AMBIGUOUS.

D. PARA 10: NO CONSENSUS. US REP MADE POINTS AS INSTRUCTED IN PARA 2 STATE 7798. UK REP OFFERED FOLLOWING REFORMULATION: "IT IS UNLIKELY THT THE SOVIET UNION WILL DELIBERATELY INITIATE WAR IN THE CENTO AREA. SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION MIGHT TAKE THE FORM OF A SURPRISE ATTACK OR INTERVENTION IN THE EVENT OF POLITICAL UNREST IN A REGIONAL COUNTRY." TURKISH REP OBJECTED THAT THIS VERSION NEEDED ELABORATION. ALL REGIONAL MEMBERS PREFER REV 3 VERSION, WITH IRANIAN REP (SUPPORTED BY PAKISTAN REP) SEEKING DELETION OF REFERENCE TO NUCLEAR WAR.

E. PARA 13: THE GROUP AGREED TO APPROVE AD REFERENDUM THE FOLLOWING REFORMULATION PROPOSED BY THE UK REP: "THE SOVIET UNION ALSO ENCOURAGES THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT FOR SUBVERSIVE OR LOCAL PRO-MOSCOW ELEMENTS IN CENTO REGIONAL COUNTRIES. IN THE EVENT OF POLITICAL UNREST IN ONE OF THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES, THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT SUPPORT A LOCAL INSURRECTION BY VARIOUS MEANS."

F. PARA 15: US AND UK REPS STATED SUPPORT FOR REV 2.
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IRANIAN REP SUPPORTED REV 3, PAKISTANI REP SAID HE WAS AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS, AND TURKISH REP SPOKE IN FAVOR OF OWN AMENDMENT INTRODUCED PREVIOUSLY.

G. PARA 16: IN MARCH 7 MEETING, CHAIRMAN SAID HE ASSUMED THAT US AND UK WOULD PREFER REV 2 AND REGIONAL MEMBERS REV 3. HE INVITED COMBINED MILITARY PLANNING STAFF REP, AIR COMMODORE SCANNELL, TO EXPLAIN WHAT KIND OF GUIDANCE CMPS NEEDED IN THIS PAPER. SCANNELL SAID THAT CMPS WAS LOOKING FOR A VERY BROAD DIRECTIVE, BUT ONE THAT WAS A UNAMIBIFUOUS AS POSSIBLE. THE DIRECTIVE SHOULD ENABLE CMPS TO IDENTIFY THE THREAT; EQUALLY IMPORTANTLY, IT SHOULD MAKE CLEAR "WHERE WE CANNOT GO, WHAT WE SHOULD AVOID". IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, US AND UK REPS MAINTAINED THAT REV 2 BEST MET THIS NEED WHILE REGIONAL COUNTRIES' REPS ARGUED THE CONTRARY.
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